

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A vehicular lamp for a vehicle, comprising:
  - a semiconductor light emitting element for emitting light;
  - a resistor for current detection for causing a current detection voltage in response to a current flowing through said semiconductor light emitting element, said resistor being coupled in series to said semiconductor light emitting element;
  - a serial diode being coupled in series to said resistor for current detection and said semiconductor light emitting element in a forward direction; and
  - an open circuit detecting unit for detecting an open circuit of said semiconductor light emitting element based on a sum voltage, which is a sum of a forward voltage of said serial diode and said current detection voltage.
2. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 1, wherein said open circuit detecting unit comprises:
  - a transistor for detecting said open circuit by receiving a voltage based on said sum voltage as a base-emitter voltage thereof and being turned on or off in response to said base-emitter voltage; and
  - a low threshold voltage diode having a forward threshold voltage lower than that of said serial diode, said low threshold voltage diode being coupled to an emitter terminal of said transistor in a forward direction.
3. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 2, wherein said open circuit detecting unit further comprises a coupling resistor being coupled in series to said semiconductor light emitting element and said low threshold voltage diode therebetween, and in parallel to said resistor for current detection, an electric

resistance of said coupling resistor being larger than that of said resistor for current detection.

4. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 2 further comprising:  
a plurality of said semiconductor light emitting elements being coupled in parallel;

a plurality of said resistors for current detection being provided respectively in response to each of said semiconductor light emitting elements, said resistors for current detection being coupled in series respectively to said corresponding semiconductor light emitting element; and

a plurality of said serial diodes being provided respectively in response to each of said semiconductor light emitting elements, said serial diodes being coupled in series respectively to said corresponding semiconductor light emitting element and resistor for current detection in a forward direction,

wherein said open circuit detecting unit further comprises a plurality of said transistors respectively receiving a voltage based on said sum voltage caused by said corresponding resistor for current detection and serial diode as a base-emitter voltage thereof, said transistors being provided respectively in response to each of said semiconductor light emitting elements, and

said low threshold voltage diode is coupled in common to each emitter terminal of said transistors in said forward direction.

5. A vehicular lamp as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:  
a plurality of said semiconductor light emitting elements being coupled in parallel; and

a plurality of said resistors for current detection being

provided respectively in response to each of said semiconductor light emitting elements for causing said current detection voltage in response to a current flowing through said corresponding semiconductor light emitting element, said resistors for current detection being coupled in series respectively to said corresponding semiconductor light emitting element,

wherein said serial diode is coupled in series to each of said semiconductor light emitting elements with said resistors for current detection interposed therebetween, and

said open circuit detecting unit is provided in common to said semiconductor light emitting elements, and detects said open circuit of said semiconductor light emitting element based on said sum voltage, which is a sum of the smallest one of said current detection voltages caused by said resistors for current detection and said forward voltage of said serial diode.